

ABOUT ESSAY

This essay provides a learning experience for all those who wish to shape the future through the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by making our children become better human beings. It also gives tips on how to help inculcate the love for our Prophet ﷺ in the hearts of our youth.

Prophet Muhammad

ﷺ

A MERCY FOR CHILDREN

By Mahrin Iqbal & Maryam Zubair

eBooklet

EFFORTS TOWARD SHAPING HUMANITY



AL-HUDA PUBLICATIONS

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Book Title : Prophet Muhammad ﷺ A Mercy for Children

Complied by : Mahrin Iqbal & Maryam Zubair

Edition: First

Published by : Al-Huda Publications Islamabad

Quantity : 5000

Year of Publication : Ramadan-al-Mubarak 1430 AH,
September 2009 CE

Addresses

Islamabad: 7 A.K. Brohi Road, H-11/4
+92 (51) 4436140-43

Karachi: 30-A, Sindhi Muslim Co operative Housing
Society.+92(21)4528547-8

Canada: 5671 Mc Adam Rd., Mississauga, ON,
L4Z 1N9. Ph # +1 905-624-2030

Website

www.alhudapk.com , www.farhathashmi.com ,
www.alhudainstitute.ca

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Dedication

We dedicate this work to the mother who spent her life, her youth, her wealth, her happiness and everything that was with her to give the world better human beings, thus sharing the mission of our beloved Prophet ﷺ .



Acknowledgments

We feel deeply indebted to our Ustazah Dr. Farhat Hashmi for making us develop a bond with the Quran and love for our Prophet ﷺ. We also acknowledge the efforts of our teacher and guide Yasmin Khakwani who motivated us to write this essay.

Contributions

We are extremely thankful to Sister Nausheen Tabassum, Sister Tanzila Naz and Sister Farah Baig who shared their work and helped shape this essay. We are also grateful to all those who took out time to review, edit and proof read our work.



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Prophet Muhammad ﷺ : A Mercy for Children

Summary

تَقْدَرُ كَارِبَ نَكْمَةٍ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ
Indeed in the messenger of Allah there is the best of examples”

(Surah Ahzab; Chapter 33, ayah 21)

There lies the best of examples for us to learn from our Prophet's ﷺ mercy, especially towards children.

We start by imagining ourselves in the Prophet's shoes when he was a child and how particular events in his life affected his personality. The next section describes the Prophet's ﷺ behavior towards children and provides a brief guide on personality-building in children. We have included comments by children that prove that incidents from our beloved Prophet's ﷺ life still inspire love and affection in their tender hearts. Lastly, we include personal experiences of Muslim families in their efforts to bring their children closer to the Prophet ﷺ.



What a Childhood!

Most of us have fond memories of our childhood which we treasure, because of care-free days and fun-filled times spent with our friends. But what about the childhood memories of a person growing up in the middle of a desert? A person whom we hear about so often, and for most of us, is the most important and beloved person in the world? Let's begin by imagining ourselves in his position.

Who Was My Father?

Picture yourself as a child who has never seen his father. All you have are a few descriptions that you can hold on to - very handsome, caring, obedient and loving in nature; a perfect family man. Wouldn't you simply long to meet the father you never saw?

Time Spent With Mother

Now envisage going with your mother to a new city. You have had a lot of fun: a chance to swim, to play with your cousins, and enjoy the greenery and pleasant atmosphere. It feels just like a dream. And throughout, your beautiful mother, Aminah is by your side. Her personality embodies her name (which literally means 'carrier of peace'). Her smile fills up the world with happiness. Isn't this a moment you'll never want to end? Unfortunately it has to, and now it's time to go home.

Never to See That Beautiful Face Again

Traveling through the endless sands of the desert, under the scorching heat and against the dust-filled winds is a harsh experience for some, but adventurous for others. Bring yourself back into the shoes of the young fatherless boy in the desert. The happy memories of the Oasis city are still fresh. But wait, what is this? Mother is severely ill and you are still far from home. You are only six years old and have no relatives to depend on. How would you feel? Just when you might be thinking of what to do, your loving caring mother passes away, leaving you with her maid to take you back home. How would you feel? Do you think you will ever be able to forget a happy journey that turned into such intense sorrow?

A Wise Noble Man

Upon returning home, your grandfather whom you admire and adore, starts taking care of you. Although you might miss your mother and her beautiful smile, your grandfather is always there for you now. You enjoy sitting with him near the house of God and listening to his words of wisdom. When he speaks, you just sit quietly and want him to go on forever. He is the leader, a noble man and everyone respects him dearly. You love his company and all that he teaches you. But after only two years, when you are merely eight years old, your grandfather and best friend also departs forever. How would you feel being alone again?

A New Family

You then move on to live with your uncle and his six children. He takes you into his home with an open heart and you are loved by all the members of the family. However, your new family is poor and you have to become an earning member at an early age to share the burdens of your loved ones.

A Unique Childhood

Such was the childhood of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who grew up to be the most kind-hearted and merciful man in the world. Known for his trustworthiness and truthfulness, he cared for his family and friends. Always eager to help his people, his greatest concern was the well-being of everyone living in the society.

How often do we see misbehaving children and say, “He’s been like that ever since he lost his father”? How often do we blame circumstances when we see irresponsible and spoilt teenagers by saying, “It’s because they lost their mother at an early age”?

Despite such obstacles, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was to become the greatest leader ever to exist on this earth and a savior of humanity. Unfavorable events did not mar the beauty of his personality.



Stories From Prophet ﷺ Muhammad's Childhood

The following are a few stories from the childhood of our beloved Prophet ﷺ. These stories demonstrate the experiences and upbringing of the Prophet ﷺ, the greatest of all leaders.

It is reported that when Aminah (Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ mother) was pregnant, she felt no pain or discomfort. She had always heard women complaining about the hardships of pregnancy, but she felt at ease. During these months, Aminah had many dreams. One night she dreamt a light was coming out of her. The light was shining on castles of Syria. (*Tabaqat Ibn Sa'd :1/63, Musnad Ahmad, Sunan Ad Darmi*).

Just before the baby was born, Aminah had a dream. In it, she was told that her child would be the leader of the people and that she should name him 'Ahmad', meaning 'the praised one', although it was an unusual name among the Arabs. So when the baby was born in 570 A.D., and brought before his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, he named him 'Muhammad' (derived from the same root as 'Ahmad', and having the same meaning, i.e. 'the praised one').

Abdul Muttalib was very passionate about his grandson, young Muhammad ﷺ. He never left the boy a prey to

loneliness. A mattress was put in the shade of Ka'bah for Abdul Muttalib. His children used to sit around that mattress as a mark of respect and honor to their father, but Muhammad ﷺ used to sit upon it. His uncles would pull him back, but if Abdul Muttalib was present, he would say: **"Leave my grandson. I swear by Allah that this boy will hold a significant position."** He used to seat the boy on his mattress, pat his back and was always pleased with what the boy did. (*Ibn e Hihsam:1/168*)

After his grandfather's death, Muhammad ﷺ was taken into the household of his father's brother, Abu Talib. Abu Talib loved young Muhammad ﷺ a lot. Once when Prophet Mohammad ﷺ was young, a deadly drought came upon Makkah. Abu Talib took Muhammad ﷺ to the Ka'bah and prayed to Allah to send rain. He recited words of poetry glorifying the beauty of young Muhammad ﷺ and kept praying to Allah until it started to rain. The poem he recited was:

"And a white (person) who is requested to pray for rain and who takes care of the orphans and is the guardian of widows..." (*Sahih Bukhari Hadith 122, Book of Istasqa*)

From these stories, we can conclude that in addition to the miracles Allah bestowed upon our beloved Prophet ﷺ, the love of his mother, the trust and words of wisdom from his grandfather and the affection of his father's brother, formed the Prophet's complete and confident personality.

Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Treatment of Children

Children are a blessing from Allah and each has their own identity. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ showed this through his behavior. He loved children and was always compassionate and merciful towards them. He showed his affection for them in many ways. He hugged them and patted them on the back. He touched their heads, combing their hair with his fingers.

He liked to hold little children in his arms. He made funny faces (like showing his tongue) to please them. When lying down, he seated them on his legs or chest.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ loved to play games with children. He made them stand in a straight line then stood at a distance, spread his hands and told the children, "Come running to me. Whoever touches me first will get a prize." The children would all come, running and breathless. When they reached the Prophet ﷺ, they would fall all over him. He enjoyed this sport, gave prizes of dates and sweets to the winners, and hugged and kissed the participants. *(The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Love for Children) [2]*

The Prophet Mohammad ﷺ was always pleased to see parents loving and caressing their children. He once said, **"When Allah blesses people with children, and they**

they give their children love and meet their parental obligations, Allah keeps them safe from the fires of Hell." *(The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Love for Children) [2]*

Jabir bin Samra (ra) one of the Prophet's companions, reported an incident of his childhood: ***"Once I offered prayers with Allah's Messenger ﷺ. After the prayer, when he went towards his house, I went with him. We were joined by more boys, and he kissed them all and me too."*** *(Sahih Muslim)*

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was entering the town of Madinah, after emigrating from Makkah, some young girls from the Ansar were singing with joy in front of their houses. When he passed by, he ﷺ said, ***"O girls! You love me."*** They all replied, ***"Yes, O Allah's Messenger."*** Then he ﷺ said, ***"I love you also."*** *(Behavior towards Children) [3]*

When children saw the Prophet ﷺ, they went running up to him. He greeted them warmly, picked them up, hugged and kissed them. He loved giving them dates, fruits and other sweet treats.

Yusuf bin Abdullah (ra) said that when he was born, his parents took him to Allah's Messenger for his blessing. The Prophet ﷺ suggested the name, 'Yusuf' and put him on his lap. He patted him on the head and prayed for the blessings of God for him. *(Behavior towards Children) [3]*

him on his lap. He patted him on the head and prayed for the blessings of God for him. (Behavior towards Children) [3]

Whenever the Prophet Mohammad ﷺ passed by children, he tried to be the first to greet them and say "Assalaamu Alaikum." When riding he would let children sit on his camel or donkey.

In some prayers, the Prophet ﷺ read long surahs. But if he heard a baby crying, he would shorten his prayer, for the sake of the mother and her baby.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to get into the spirit of games with children. He would have fun with them and tried to speak in the Abyssinian language with the children who had come back from Abyssinia. (*Sahih Bukhari, Vol.2 P.886*) [4]

One of the most important instructions Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave before the conquest of Makkah, was not to harm any child. The Prophet ﷺ worried for their safety and well-being even during war. This shows the compassion he had towards children no matter what the situation was.



Lessons from the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ

Raising Good Children

These days we are inundated with statistics, books, research reports, psychological studies and 'notices of caution' on how to raise successful, happy children with good self-esteem, how to raise them to become more productive adults and so on. Access to all this information is just a 'click' away.

All of this was taught to us by the Prophet ﷺ many years ago. Each of his advice was valuable and full of wisdom. He educated us so as not to overlook even the smallest detail. He taught us the beauty of love, the power of a merciful touch in melting away adversity, and most importantly, that loving your child is easy and free.

We have described all that we could find on how to achieve outstanding results in raising good children. Now it is our duty to practice all that we have learnt and shape humanity in the most beautiful way.

Expressing Love

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never held back his love for children and always expressed his fondness to them. He played with them and took a keen interest in them.

In a hadith, Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated:

"Allah's Messenger ﷺ kissed Al-Hasan ibn `Ali while Al-

Aqra` ibn Habis At-Tamim was sitting with him. Al-Aqra` said, 'I have ten children and have never kissed one of them' The Prophet ﷺ cast him a look and said, 'Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully'." (Sahih Bukhari)

In another hadith, Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated:

"I went along with Allah's Messenger at a time during the day but he did not talk to me and I did not talk to him until he reached the market of Banu Qainuqa`. He came back to the tent of Fatimah and said, 'Is the little chap (meaning Al-Hasan) there?' We were under the impression that his mother had detained him in order to bathe and dress him and garland him with sweet garland. Not much time had passed that he (Al-Hasan) came running until both of them embraced each other, thereupon Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, 'O Allah, I love him; love him and love one who loves him'." (Sahih Muslim)

Anas bin Malik (ra), the servant of the Prophet ﷺ had another recollection:

"I never saw anyone who was more compassionate towards children than Allah's Messenger. His son Ibrahim was in the care of a wet nurse in the hills around Madinah. He would go there, and we would go with him, and he would enter the house, pick up his son and kiss him, then come back". (Sahih Muslim)

Giving Them Importance

The above Ahadith show how our Prophet ﷺ gave

importance to children. This makes children realize their worth.

The Prophet ﷺ also used to pay attention to children and their interests and hobbies so that they felt important.

Anas bin Malik (ra) narrated:

"The Prophet ﷺ used to mingle with us to the extent that he would say to the younger brother of mine, 'O father of Umair! What did An- Nughair [your sparrow] do?'" (Sahih Muslim)

Strengthening Their Relationship With Allah

Abu al-'Abbas 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (ra), reported: One day I was behind the Prophet ﷺ, and he said to me:

"O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice] : Be mindful of Allah, and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him in front of you. If you (have need to) ask, ask of Allah; and if you seek help, seek help from Allah. Know that even if the Nation (or the whole community) were to gather together to benefit you with something, they would not benefit you with anything except that which Allah has already recorded for you, and that if they gather together to harm you with something, they would not be able to harm you with anything except that which Allah has already recorded against you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried." (Al-Tirmidhi relates this and says: It is a good, genuine Hadith)

Loving All Children above Cast, Creed or Color

The Prophet's ﷺ love for children was not restricted to his own children and grandchildren. The scope of his mercy and affection embraced all children to whom he showed interest and gentleness.

Usamah bin Zaid (ra) narrates:

"Allah's Messenger ﷺ used to put me on (one of) his thighs and put Al-Hasan ibn Ali on his other thigh, and then embrace us and say, O Allah! Please be merciful to them, as I am merciful to them." (Sahih Bukhari)

Being Patient and Not Hurting Their Feelings

The Prophet ﷺ was always concerned about everyone's thoughts and feelings. The following hadith narrated by Anas bin Malik (ra) shows his thoughtful character:

"The Prophet ﷺ said, '(It happens that) I start the prayer intending to prolong it, but on hearing the cries of a child, I shorten the prayer because I know that the cries of the child will incite its mother's passions'." (Sahih Bukhari)

The Prophet ﷺ was always patient and considerate with children and took great pain not to hurt their tender feelings.

Narrated Abu Qatadah (ra): ***"The Messenger of Allah came towards us while carrying Umamah the daughter of Abi Al-`As (the Prophet's ﷺ granddaughter) over his shoulder. He prayed, and when he wanted to bow, he***

her down, and when he stood up he lifted her up." (Sahih Bukhari)

In another hadith, Umm e Khalid (ra) narrated:

"I (the daughter of Khalid bin Said(ra) went to Allah's Messenger with my father and I was wearing a yellow shirt. Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, 'Sanah, Sanah!' ('Abdullah(ra),the narrator, said that sanah meant "good" in the Ethiopian language). I then started playing with the seal of the prophet hood (between the Prophet's shoulders) and my father rebuked me harshly for that. Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, 'Leave her.' The Prophet then invoked Allah to grant her a long life thrice". (Sahih Bukhari)

A companion, recalling his childhood, said:

"In my childhood I used to fell dates by throwing stones at palm trees. Somebody took me to the Prophet ﷺ who advised me to pick up the dates lying on the ground but not to fell them with stones. He then patted me and blessed me." (Sunan Abu Dawud)

Making Life Fun for Them

Mahmood bin Rabi (ra) narrated:

"When I was a boy of five, I remember the Prophet ﷺ took water from a bucket in his mouth and sprinkled it on my face". (Sahih Bukhari)

Showing Tolerance

The Prophet's ﷺ tolerance towards children was unmatched. It is clear from the following hadith narrated

by A'ishah (ra):

"The Prophet ﷺ took a child in his lap... and then the child urinated on him, so he asked for water and poured it over the place of the urine". (Sahih Bukhari)

Helping Them Not Feel a Failure

The Prophet ﷺ used to teach children that failure doesn't exist.

Narrated by Anas (ra):

"I served the Prophet ﷺ for ten years, and he never said to me, "Uf" (a minor harsh word denoting impatience) and never blamed me by saying, 'Why did you do so or why didn't you do so?'. " (Sahih Bukhari)

As mentors, we must also help a child believe in his or her ability to succeed no matter how long it takes!

Showing Tolerance for Inappropriate Behavior

Young children's inappropriate behavior may be ignored at times or treated lightly. The Prophet ﷺ is our best example in this regard.

Anas reported that ***"Allah's Messenger ﷺ had the best disposition amongst people. He sent me on an errand one day, and I said: By Allah, I would not go. I had, however, this idea in my mind that I would do as Allah's Apostle ﷺ had commanded me to do. I went out until I happened to come across children who had been playing in the street. In the meanwhile, Allah's Messenger ﷺ came there and he caught me by the back of my neck from***

from behind me. As I looked towards him I found him smiling and he ﷺ said: 'Unais, did you go where I commanded you to go?' I said: 'Allah's Messenger, yes, I am going'. Anas further said: I served him for nine years but I know not that he ever said to me about a thing which I had done why I did that, or about a thing I had left as to why I had not done that". (Sahih Muslim Book 30 Number 5724)

Treating With Equality

Prophet ﷺ emphasized that Muslims should be conscious to treat both their sons and daughters justly:

"Fear Allah and treat your children [small or grown] fairly (with equal justice)." (Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

Listening To What They Have To Say

The Prophet ﷺ used to give children full attention. Whenever they had something to say to him, he would listen intently and not turn his face away from them.

Building Their Personalities

The love and affection for children that the Prophet ﷺ displayed was not restricted to gestures only. Rather, he made efforts in grooming their personalities and making them responsible members of society.

- ❖ The Prophet ﷺ used to take children to gatherings and let them sit with grown-ups to increase their understanding and wisdom. The companions of the Prophet used to bring their children with them when

❖ Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to teach them good manners and etiquettes. In a hadith narrated by Abu Hurayrah (ra): ***"The Prophet ﷺ has said 'The young should greet the old, the passerby should greet one who is sitting, and the small group should greet the larger group'."*** (Sahih Bukhari)

❖ He gave children the praise and respect they deserved in front of others. This is made clear by the following hadith:

Sahl bin Sa'd (ra) said that "The Prophet ﷺ was brought a cup and he drank from it. There was a boy, the youngest of all the people, on his right and some elders on his left. He said, 'O young boy, will you allow me to give this to these elders?' The boy said, 'I will not give away my share of your blessings to anyone, O Messenger of Allah,' so he gave the cup to him". (Sahih Bukhari)

❖ He taught them sports.

❖ He always avoided humiliating them, especially in front of others, never belittling their ideas, and encouraging them to take part by consulting them and asking for their opinions.

❖ The Prophet ﷺ gave them responsibilities in accordance with their age and abilities.

❖ He taught them to be brave, including how to speak in public. He taught them modesty, and how to

avoid inappropriate clothing and hairstyles; the appropriate movements and ways of walking; avoiding extravagance, luxury, laziness, idleness and wasting time, as these go against strength, honor and seriousness.



Our Children and Prophet Mohammad ﷺ

Children are innocent and describe their feelings without any hesitation. In an effort to find out the place of our beloved Prophet ﷺ in the hearts of our children today, we conducted a survey among children of various ages. We asked questions about our Prophet ﷺ and children were to share whatever feelings were in their hearts about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The answers were incredible!

A teacher asked the students, "Why do you think Allah loves our Prophet ﷺ so much?" A five year old boy, Hanzala, replied "Because the Prophet ﷺ used to obey everything that Allah used to say".

Yahya, also age five, was asked, "How do you feel about the Prophet ﷺ?" Before he could answer his eyes filled with tears and he said, "I miss him." We were amazed at the answer because we were not expecting it! After a while when he could control his tears he said, "I miss him because I like him very much. I feel like crying because I want to be with him. He used to say, drink milk and it makes you healthy."

Talha, age five, said, "I like to listen to poems about him."

Yahya, age four and a half, had something different to say: "Prophet ﷺ made a mosque with a young boy and I like that about him. Bad people made him leave Makah his home."

Feelings about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

"I have heard a lot about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in school and at home. Whenever my mother tells me about him, it's always very interesting. I want to be a nice Muslim just like him. When I meet Prophet I want to learn more about Islam from him, and the most, I want to see him. I really want to talk to him so I really hope I can see him in Jannah and that would only be possible if I follow his sunnah". Basma Sheikh, age 9

"I'd love to meet the Prophet ﷺ and when I do I would share my things with him, play with him, share my lunch with him and share my secrets with him. I'd like to learn how to obey and worship Allah from him, discuss his Hadith with him, learn about Islam from him, and learn how to read Quran from him and listen to the stories of the Quran from him. I'd also like to learn how to behave with our parents, teachers and elders and see see how he treats them. I would want to learn

learn how to behave with our parents, teachers and elders and see how he treats them. I would want to learn about the people of Arabia from him. I will hug him and love him. InshaAllah".
Nabiha, age 10

"If I ever met Prophet ﷺ I'd like to play with him, tell him all my secrets and also share my lunch with him. I'll read a story to him and share all my books with him." Ayesha Ajmal, age 9

"I want to do Hifz e Quran and then pray with the Prophet ﷺ." Fayyaz, age 11

"I really want to meet him and offer prayers behind him. I want to talk to him and know more about him; how he spent his life and want to live my life like him. I want to make him my friend and always follow his sunnah way." Noor Bakht, age 11

"I will follow the way of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ sunnah and be just like him. I want to be a noble Muslim just like him." Ayman, age 11

"I really want to meet him, see him and hear Hadith from him; want to send peace and blessings upon him always. Also I would like to play with him and share my problems with him."
Eesha Zahid age 11

"I want to become just like Prophet ﷺ by following his sunnah. I also want to meet the Prophet ﷺ." Muhammad Hammad, age 11

"I want to see him and meet him and go for a picnic with him." Palwasha Ajmal, age 11

"I would be so surprised to see him if I meet him. I'd say Salaam to him, talk to him and spend all my time with him. I will be so happy that I was able to meet with Allah's Messenger ﷺ." Abuzar, 11

"If I ever meet the Holy Prophet ﷺ I will ask him to first tell me 'What was the life before us?' I will always act upon sunnahs of Prophet ﷺ. I will ask him if he can play with me. I'll pray with him. I'll cook something special for him and ask him to have dinner at my house." Sameen, 9

"I want to play with him and I know I'll feel great when I do. I want to sit with him on the camel. I also want to pray with him in the mosque. I would like to go with him to Makkah and do Hajj with him. I'd like to read the Quran to him. I'd like to eat with him and do swimming with him. I'd like to share these feelings with him and in the end thank him for spending so much time with me."
M.A.Abdullah, 8

"I really want to play football and play station with him. I'd like to ride a horse or a camel with him also. I wonder how Arabian food is, and I'd like to eat it with him. I'd like to do Hajj with him, throw pebbles on the shaytan and see Madinah with him". Asfand, 8

"I want to visit Prophet ﷺ. When I meet Prophet ﷺ I'll say 'Asalaam Alaikum' to him and then play with him. I'll also pray with him. After that we'll read the Quran together, in the afternoon I'd like to sleep for a little while and when I wake I'd like to play with him till Asar Prayers. After that I'd again like to read the Quran and tell lots of Hadith that I have memorized. Then we'll offer Maghrib prayers and after that I'll thank him for letting me spend a whole day with him and then my mom would come to pick me up. So I'll say 'Asalaam Alaikum' and 'Thank You'." Arooj, 7



Bringing Our Children Closer to Prophet ﷺ

We have incorporated some suggestions on ways to bring our children closer to the Prophet ﷺ. These are valuable experiences shared by our sisters who strive to increase the Prophet's ﷺ love in their families.

Hold Seerah Quizzes

Hold Seerah quizzes at your homes often and give out prizes to winners to encourage them to learn more about our beloved Prophet ﷺ. Knowing about him and his life will increase love for him.

Talk About Him

To make the Prophet ﷺ a part of our lives we must talk to our children about him often: share the happy moments, sad moments, different anecdotes and stories from the battles. We can also show how our beloved Prophet ﷺ used to treat children. This is a very effective way of making our children come closer to him.

A Week With Prophet ﷺ

Shared by Sister Farah Baig

"We all love our Prophet ﷺ, simply because he brought us Divine guidance and helped us find our way to Truth. He is the light, as Almighty Allah says: ***"Indeed, there has come to you from Allah a light (Prophet Muhammad ﷺ)***

and a Book (The Qur'an)." (Al-Ma'idah: 15)

It is then necessary to teach our children love for Prophet ﷺ. We should also make sure that love for him grows daily in our hearts!

In order to promote such noble feelings in our family and kids, my husband and I decided to organize a week-long family activity around the life of the Prophet. Why not spend one day of the week on each of these activities, devoting the whole seven days to a different project? We offered to our kids some token presents in showing acknowledgment to the great role the Prophet ﷺ played in our lives.

To have the daily family activity, we decided to make a week-long daily activity planner similar to the following:

- ❖ Monday – TRAVEL WITH THE PROPHET ﷺ
- ❖ Tuesday – WAKE UP WITH THE PROPHET ﷺ
- ❖ Wednesday – STORY TELLING NIGHT
- ❖ Thursday – SLEEP LIKE THE PROPHET ﷺ
- ❖ Friday – EAT LIKE PROPHET ﷺ
- ❖ Saturday – PRAY LIKE THE PROPHET ﷺ
- ❖ Sunday – PLAY LIKE THE PROPHET ﷺ

Alhamdulillah, we all participated and learnt a lot with this and had fun at the same time. I got the opportunity to explain to them how Prophet Muhammad migrated from Makkah to Madinah and where the Ka'bah is located. I also told everyone that he used to get up early

in the morning before fajr and how important that time is for Allah's *zikr*.

My son shared what he had learnt a few months ago in the masjid: that the Prophet ﷺ used to sleep on his right side, with his right hand under his right cheek. He used to make Wudu before going to bed and would recite one or two supplications before sleeping and a few short portions of the Qur'an.

Then my husband explained the Muslim etiquettes for eating. He discussed how the Prophet ﷺ advised Muslims to eat in a way that the stomach should be only one-third full. We also should wash our hands before eating, recite "*Bismillah*" and other supplications before we begin, as well as eat only with our right hand. I even prepared Middle Eastern food that day that every one loved.

Then came the fun part: Playing like a Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet Mohammad ﷺ understood the importance of fun and games. He would race with his wife `A'isha (ra) who used to outrun him some times. He would swim and wrestle with his companions. He would joke with them too. He played with and loved children. So, that's what we did together. We spent that day playing different games.

My parents were visiting so they also took part in the family activity week. *Alhamdulillah* our plan worked out very well. We learned a lot about our beloved

Mohammad ﷺ and his activities. The main thing is that we had fun and learned at the same time!
AlhamdulAillahi Rabbil Aalameen.



Conclusion

Our beloved Prophet ﷺ has provided for us clear guidelines through his own childhood and his treatment of children that the concept of mercy is never complete without showing affection towards children. The fact that even during wars, he gave strict orders not to harm any child shows the level of compassion he had. His Seerah is full of lessons for all of us to learn from and practice in our daily lives. The result of which would be a great nation brought up in the best of ways.



Glossary

ﷺ = SalAllahu Alaih Wasallam; literally 'May Allah's Peace and Blessings be Upon Him'. The name of our beloved Prophet ﷺ is always taken along with this invocation of blessing.

Alhamdulillah= literally 'May Allah Be Praised'; an invocation offered by Muslims at the completion of any task.

Ansar= the local residents of the city of Madinah who invited the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions to migrate from the religious persecution of the people living in their hometown Makkah, and then helped them after coming to Madinah.

Asar= the name of the obligatory prayers Muslims offer in late afternoon, when the sun has started to decline.

Assalam Alikum= literally 'Peace Be Upon You'. It is the Islamic greeting.

Bismillah= literally 'In the Name of Allah'. Muslims start all actions, big or small, after first invoking the name of Allah.

Fajr= the name of the obligatory prayers Muslims offer after day break and before sunrise.

Hadith (plural: *ahadith*)= reports about the statements or actions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, or

about his tacit approval of something said or done in his presence.

Hifz e Quran= memorization of the Quran.

InshaAllah= literally 'If Allah So Wills'. It is customary for a Muslim to seek Allah's help with this phrase, when he states the intent to do something in future.

Jannah= paradise.

Ka'ba= the House of God, located in Makkah, which is the center of the Muslim world. It is the direction to which Muslims turn in prayer wherever they might be on the globe.

Maghrib= the name of the obligatory prayers Muslims offer just after sundown.

Masjid= mosque.

Quran= the sacred writings of Islam, the words of Allah, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ during his life at Makkah and Medina.

Ra = RadiAllahu Unho; literally 'May Allah Be Pleased With Him'. It is an honorary title given by Allah, and added after the name of a Companion of the Prophet.

Surah= a chapter of the Quran.

Sunnah= literally "trodden path". It means "the ways and manners of Prophet Muhammad", and includes

and manners of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ", and includes his actions and words.

Shaytan= satan.

Seerah= the study of the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and all that is related to him.

Wudu= ablutions which a Muslim is obliged to perform before offering prayers.

Zikar= remembrance of Allah, by words or deeds.



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